

In the Claims

1 1. [Original] An image forming device comprising:
2 an interface adapted to communicate with a communication medium
3 external of the image forming device;
4 imaging circuitry configured to use an imaging consumable to form hard
5 images;
6 a sensor configured to monitor a status of the imaging consumable; and
7 processing circuitry coupled with the sensor and configured to generate a
8 message indicating the status of the imaging consumable and to synchronize
9 with another image forming device to control a timing of a communication of
10 the message externally of the image forming device using the interface.

1 2. [Original] The device in accordance with claim 1 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to detect a predetermined moment in time to
3 synchronize with the another image forming device.

1 3. [Original] The device in accordance with claim 1 wherein the
2 imaging circuitry is configured to print hard images upon media.

1 4. [Original] The device in accordance with claim 1 wherein the
2 interface is adapted to communicate with the communication medium
3 comprising a packet-switched network, and the processing circuitry is
4 configured to formulate the message comprising an e-mail message.

1 5. [Original] The device in accordance with claim 1 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to generate the message comprising a status
3 message including one status.

1 6. [Original] The device in accordance with claim 1 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to generate the message comprising a
3 composite message including a plurality of statuses corresponding to at least
4 one imaging consumable.

1 7. [Currently Amended] An image forming device comprising:
2 an interface adapted to communicate with a communication medium
3 external of the image forming device;
4 imaging circuitry configured to use an imaging consumable to form hard
5 images;
6 a sensor configured to monitor a status of the imaging consumable; and
7 processing circuitry coupled with the sensor and configured to generate a
8 message indicating the status of the imaging consumable and to communicate
9 the message externally of the image forming device using the interface at a
10 ~~predetermined~~ moment in time determined internally of the image forming
11 device.

1 8. [Original] The device in accordance with claim 7 wherein the
2 imaging circuitry is configured to print hard images upon media.

1 9. [Original] The device in accordance with claim 7 wherein the
2 interface is adapted to communicate with the communication medium
3 comprising a packet-switched network, and the processing circuitry is
4 configured to formulate the message comprising an e-mail message.

1 10. [Original] The device in accordance with claim 7 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to generate the message comprising a
3 composite message including a plurality of statuses corresponding to at least
4 one imaging consumable.

1 11. [Currently Amended] An image forming device comprising:
2 an interface adapted to communicate with a communication medium;
3 imaging circuitry configured to consume a plurality of imaging
4 consumables to form hard images;
5 a plurality of sensors configured to monitor respective statuses of the
6 imaging consumables; and
7 processing circuitry coupled with the sensors and configured to generate
8 a composite message indicating statuses of the imaging consumables, and to

9 forward the composite message to the interface for communication externally of
10 the image forming device at substantially the same moment in time that another
11 image forming device communicates another message which includes a status of
12 an imaging consumable of the another image forming device.

1 12. [Currently Amended] The device in accordance with claim 11
2 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to synchronize with the another
3 image forming device to control the timing of the communication of the
4 composite message.

1 13. [Original] The device in accordance with claim 12 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to send the composite message at a
3 predetermined moment in time to synchronize with the another image forming
4 device.

1 14. [Original] The device in accordance with claim 11 wherein the
2 imaging circuitry is configured to print hard images upon media.

1 15. [Original] The device in accordance with claim 11 wherein the
2 interface is adapted to communicate with the communication medium
3 comprising a packet-switched network, and the processing circuitry is
4 configured to formulate the composite message comprising an e-mail message.

1 16. [Original] The device in accordance with claim 11 further
2 comprising storage circuitry and the processing circuitry is configured to process
3 signals from the sensors and to forward statuses responsive to the signals to the
4 storage circuitry for storage.

1 17. [Original] A method of facilitating ordering of an imaging
2 consumable comprising:

3 providing an image forming device configured to use the imaging
4 consumable to form hard images;

5 monitoring a status of the imaging consumable;

6 generating a message indicating the status of the imaging consumable
7 responsive to the monitoring;
8 synchronizing with another image forming device; and
9 communicating the message externally of the image forming device
10 responsive to the synchronizing.

1 18. [Original] The method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the
2 synchronizing comprises detecting a predetermined moment in time.

1 19. [Original] The method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the
2 providing comprises providing the image forming device configured to print hard
3 images upon media.

1 20. [Original] The method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the
2 communicating comprises communicating the message comprising an e-mail
3 message.

1 21. [Original] The method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the
2 generating comprises generating the message comprising a composite message
3 including a plurality of statuses corresponding to at least one imaging
4 consumable.

1 22. [Currently Amended] A method of facilitating ordering of an
2 imaging consumable comprising:
3 providing an image forming device configured to use the imaging
4 consumable to form hard images;
5 monitoring a status of the imaging consumable;
6 generating a message indicating the status of the imaging consumable
7 responsive to the monitoring; and
8 communicating the message externally of the image forming device at a
9 predetermined moment in time determined internally of the image forming
10 device.

1 23. [Original] The method in accordance with claim 22 wherein the
2 communicating comprises communicating the message comprising an e-mail
3 message.

1 24. [Original] The method in accordance with claim 22 wherein the
2 generating comprises generating the message comprising a composite message
3 including a plurality of statuses corresponding to at least one imaging
4 consumable.

1 25. [New] The device in accordance with claim 1 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to synchronize with the another image forming
3 device to control the communication of the message at substantially the same
4 moment in time that the another image forming device communicates another
5 message which includes a status of an imaging consumable of the another
6 image forming device.

1 26. [New] The device in accordance with claim 7 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to determine the moment in time using criteria
3 stored internally of the image forming device.

1 27. [New] The device in accordance with claim 7 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to determine the moment in time using criteria
3 originating within the image forming device.

1 28. [New] The device in accordance with claim 11 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to determine the moment in time using criteria
3 stored internally of the image forming device.

1 29. [New] The device in accordance with claim 11 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to determine the moment in time using criteria
3 originating within the image forming device.

1 30. [New] The method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the
2 synchronizing comprises synchronizing the image forming device with another
3 image forming device.

1 31. [New] The method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the
2 communicating comprises communicating the message at substantially the same
3 moment in time that the another image forming device communicates another
4 message which includes a status of an imaging consumable of the another
5 image forming device.

1 32. [New] The method in accordance with claim 22 further
2 comprising, using the image forming device, determining the moment in time
3 using criteria stored internally of the image forming device.

1 33. [New] The method in accordance with claim 22 further
2 comprising, using the image forming device, determining the moment in time
3 using criteria originating within the image forming device.